

**To:** Koslow, Karin[Koslow.Karin@epa.gov]; Gee, Randy[Gee.Randy@epa.gov]; COYLE, BRIDGET[Coyle.Bridget@epa.gov]; Blanco, Arturo[Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Mitre, Alfreda[Mitre.Alfreda@epa.gov]; Chase, JoAnn[Chase.JoAnn@epa.gov]  
**From:** Ebbert, Laura  
**Sent:** Fri 8/7/2015 8:40:30 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Gold King Mine release - notifications to tribal governments

Confirmed: R9 OSCs have connected with Dr. Benn and Program Directors at the Navajo Nation.

LE

Laura Ebbert

Manager, Tribal Section

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**From:** Koslow, Karin  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 1:29 PM  
**To:** Gee, Randy; Ebbert, Laura; COYLE, BRIDGET; Blanco, Arturo  
**Cc:** Mitre, Alfreda; Chase, JoAnn  
**Subject:** Fw: Gold King Mine release - notifications to tribal governments

Hi folks -

Thanks to Alfreda for sharing the info below and coordinating this multi-regional effort. It sounds like you all are already coordinated, but just to close the loop from this end, I was asked by OSWER's Office of Emergency Management to reach out and make sure notifications to impacted tribal governments are happening quickly, and that as your Region is planning for meetings, events and outreach regarding this spill, that affected tribal government representatives are invited/included.

If there's anything AIEO can do to assist pls let us know.

Thanks,

Karin

Karin Koslow

Deputy Director, AIEO

202-564-0171

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**From:** Mitre, Alfreda  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 6:06 PM  
**To:** Chase, JoAnn; Koslow, Karin  
**Subject:** Gold King Mine release article

The mine waste water spill will impact the Southern Ute and part of the Navajo Nation. We have reached out to both Tribes and Regions.

#### **August 6 EPA Statement on Gold King Mine Release**

Yesterday, an EPA team working to investigate and address contamination at the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colo. unexpectedly triggered a large release of mine waste water into the upper portions of Cement Creek. Initial estimates are that the release contained approximately 1M gallons of water that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed.

Following the release, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment notified water users downstream so they could take appropriate steps to turn off intakes until the contaminated water passes.

The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Cement Creek and into the Animas River. The water associated with the release is obvious and highly discolored. As a precaution, EPA recommends that recreational users of the Animas River avoid contact with or use of the river until the pulse of mine water passes. Over the next several days, EPA teams will be sampling and investigating downstream locations to confirm that the release has passed and poses no additional concerns for aquatic life or water users. EPA will also be assessing damage near the mine portal and any residual releases of water at the mine site.

<http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20150806/NEWS01/150809765/Mine-waste-in-Animas-River-nears-Durango->